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CD NO.

COUNTRY Bolivia

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**SUBJECT** MNR Support in the National Legislature

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The following report furnishes information on the strength of the Movimiento Nacionalista Revolucionario (MNR) in the Bolivian national legislature.

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1. The MNR has two avowed members in the Chamber of Deputies, Augusto Fernandez and Edgar Nunez Vela. In addition, mine labor leader Juan Lechin, of the Federacion Sindical de Trabajadores Mineros de Bolivia (FSTMB), is a Senator. Lechin makes no public admission of MNR membership but it is reported that Lechin's name is on the MNR rolls, and he is said to be in communication with the exiled MNR chief, Victor Paz Estenssoro.
2. Lechin's first lieutenant, Mario Torres, is a Deputy. Torres' membership status in the MNR is much the same as that of Lechin. Torres has also been listed as a member of the Partido Obrero Revolucionario (POR).
3. The POR, a mine labor party of Trotskyite tendencies, works very closely with the MNR. The following members of the POR were elected in January 1947 to the Chamber of Deputies: Guillermo Lora, Ismael Perez Alcala, Anibal Vargas, Adan Rojas, Humberto Salamanca, and Alberto Costa de la Torre. Since his election, Costa has switched over to the government Partido de la Union Socialista Republicana (PUSR), and the POR has announced the expulsion of Salamanca.
4. Another party which often cooperates with the MNR is the Falange Socialista Boliviana, which has no Senators but two Deputies, Oscar Unzaga de la Vega\*, the party chief, and Benjamin Fernandez. The Falange, which receives moral support from members of the Jesuit Order, is growing in influence among the youth of some localities, especially Cochabamba.
5. National elections were scheduled for May for Senators and Deputies in certain departments and provinces which have been designated by lot. Source reports that it has been stated several times in the MNR high command in La Paz that if the MNR triumphs in the Department of La Paz, it plans to seize the government shortly after the elections, since popular support of the party in La Paz will then be clear.

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